

injuries. While the book was written by various contributors it would seem wise to have all the therapeutic recommendations either in the metric or apothecary system rather than a mixture of the two.

The quality of the paper, the printing and the binding are outstanding.

The book should be a very welcome addition to the library of the general practitioner who may at times have to care for eye cases.

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SURGERY OF THE HAND. By Sterling Bunnell, M.D. Second Edition. Philadelphia, London and Montreal. J. H. Lippincott Co., 1948.

This book had to be written some time, and it was magnificently achieved first in 1944, and again in 1948 by the same author, internationally recognized as the master surgeon in this field. The development of surgery of the hand to its present high degree has been due in large measure to his unique skill in the three divisions of surgery most concerned in reconstruction of the hand: Plastic surgery, neurosurgery and orthopedic surgery. His ability to treat the hand as an entity, to correct all the disabilities involved, led over the years to a remarkable development of fundamental principles, of ingenious methods and devices, of brilliantly conceived innovations which promise the present maximum possible reconstruction of the badly maimed hand.

From the first chapters on the phylogeny and comparative and normal anatomy of the hand, subjects to which the author brings unique and instructive information, to the making of new thumbs and the transplantation of tendons and nerves, the book is replete with suggestions and methods of great value to every surgeon who is engaged in caring for fresh injuries, burns and infections of the hand, or who is interested in restoring to as complete normality as possible the hand maimed or crippled by these various types of trauma.

Particularly important and instructive are the sections on skin grafting, on the preparation of pedicles, on the transplantation of bones, nerves, even whole fingers, on the restoration of prehension in the absence of a thumb, on the immediate care of infections of the hand and fingers and on the use of anatomically sound incisions which will not increase the residual disabilities that frequently spring from such infections and which can be reduced to a minimum by proper care at the moment of injury or at the time when drainage becomes necessary.

Also, the ingenious methods employed by Bunnell and his associates to correct congenital malformations of the hand are excellently portrayed. The presentation of tumors of the hand by Dr. L. D. Howard, Jr., adds a distinctive and important chapter to the surgical understanding of the hand.

The value of the book is greatly enhanced by numerous excellent illustrations that tell, better than words, the meth-

ods and devices employed in securing the best possible function as well as the best appearance of the restored hand.

Patients and surgeons alike will reap untold benefit from this truly monumental work, which makes available to present and succeeding generations the many experiences and the abundant technical knowledge acquired in the lifetime of a busy and talented surgical genius who for many years has made reconstruction, particularly of the crippled hand, his paramount interest.

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DIABETES AND ITS TREATMENT. By Joseph H. Barach, M.D., F.A.C.P., Associate Professor of Medicine, University of Pittsburgh. Oxford University Press, New York, 1949. \$10.00.

"This book was not written for Charles Best, the co-discoverer of insulin, nor for the many other research scientists and clinicians who are outstanding authorities in this field. This book offers the general medical man a clinical approach to an understanding of the disease and its treatment." (Preface, p. viii.)

While the former statement is probably quite true, this reviewer does not believe that the latter statement has been well met. The first chapter deals with the history of diabetes and is good in that the many early workers in the field are adequately covered by a brief statement. However, as we get further into the book this fine attribute of a brief and adequate coverage is lost, and we must consider many paragraphs to pick out the basic ideas that have been expressed. Many aspects of the disease are covered in great detail, and as such are interesting to the specialist. But for the general practitioner and the student, the mass of detail accompanying each principle tends to negate the value of these principles and impress one that this is an almost hopelessly complex disease.

Included in the book are some 180 pages of diets and recipes whose value as stated is their easy reference by the patient. This seems unnecessary, for many of the diets vary little from each other in the number of calories but get their variety in altering the ratios of protein, fat, and carbohydrate, which for most patients complicates the picture even more.

The author's concept of the use of salt in heart disease and hypertension is fallacious in that he recommends use of intravenous salt solution for patients with heart disease of Grades I and II and Ringer solution for those with Grades III and IV and again in his recommendation of Eka as a salt substitute in hypertension (Eka is a combination of sodium citrate and sodium malleate).

On the whole, while the author maintains a scholarly and broadminded attitude on the controversial points in present day diabetic management, it is difficult to see where this book helps the average practitioner in the treatment of patients.

